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# Worldwide Report

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

No. 327



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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# WORLDWIDE REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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# EPA EYES MINERAL EXPLOITATION, CONSERVATION BALANCE

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 14 Sep 81 p 13

[Text]

**There must be a balance between exploration of the mineral potential of the Kimberleys and the need for conservation reserves in the area, according to an Environmental Protection Authority report.**

The System 7 report, released yesterday, contains recommendations to the State Government for the creation of conservation reserves in the Kimberleys.

The report said that the rights of mining and petroleum tenement holders must be respected.

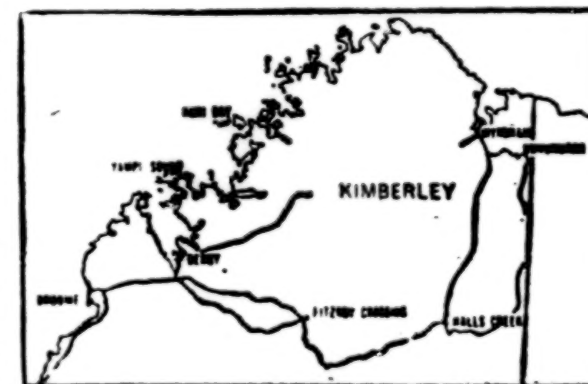
"These areas should be excised from the areas which are the subject of our recommendations," it said.

"However on the expiration or relinquishing of any tenement, the question of reservation in accordance with our recommendation should be considered."

## POTENTIAL

The report said that the EPA recognised the high mineral potential of the Kimberleys and the need for systematic exploration.

It said that significant progress had been made in exploration. As more



base-line scientific data—such as geological mapping and biological surveys—become available, rational solutions should be achieved in areas of conflict.

According to the report, the new Mining Act, now being reviewed, made reference to referral and consultative mechanisms which would apply to mineral tenement applications in all types of reserves and national parks.

## TOURISM

In the report the EPA recognised the potential of some areas for tourism.

These areas include Hidden Valley and Lake

Argyle near Kununurra.

The report said that hidden Valley was an important tourist and recreational attraction and contained important Aboriginal sites.

"Concern has been expressed that unless some controls are exercised, the area could be subject to over-use and vandalism," it said.

The report recommended that part of vacant Crown land containing Hidden Valley be set apart as a class A reserve for a national park and vested in the National Parks Authority.

It also recommended that the National Parks

Authority consult the traditional owners of Hidden Valley during preparation of a management plan.

In the report the EPA said that it recognised the importance of Lake Argyle as a tourist attraction. It did not consider that the recommendations should prejudice the area's tourist potential.

It recommended that the area including the Carr Boyd Ranges and the islands in Lake Argyle be declared a class C reserve for national park.

The Premier, Sir Charles Court, said yesterday that the report had been considered by the Cabinet and would serve as a guide for establishment of conservation reserves.

"The Government has reaffirmed its support in principle for the establishment of conservation reserves throughout the State," he said.

"However, it has become increasingly apparent that in order for the community to benefit to the maximum extent from the creation of reserves, the final form that they take should be considered separately and take account of all possible uses of such reserves."

# NSW FORESTRY CHIEF WARNS OF OVERCUTTING, OTHER PROBLEMS

Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 16 Sep 81 p 3

[Article by Joseph Glascott]

[Text]

The NSW Commissioner of Forests, Dr Wal Gentle, has warned his senior officers against allowing forests to be over-cut by saw-loggers.

In a speech to officers he said: "We have had too many of our big management areas where the data and the statistics indicate that, without doubt, they are being over-cut."

His warning was given in an address to a senior officers' conference on June 4 and 5.

His speech was leaked to the Total Environment Centre, which issued it yesterday.

Dr Gentle told his officers that management plans were a number-one priority in the management of State forests. Management plans were now very important public documents which backed up any environmental impact by forestry activities.

Logging quotas were an important element of management plans.

"You will have noted that there has been a hardening line towards over-cutting, particularly in the past 12 months," he said.

"If you are in any doubt about what you should be doing on the quota side, it is definitely to pull things back towards the sustained yield principle, which is really the cornerstone of all forestry at the field management level."

Dr Gentle told the officers that they would be required to set financial targets in each forest management unit from this financial year.

"That document so far has just recorded history, and most of it fairly dismal (it shows we are making a loss on nearly everything), but the document is now going to have a prediction element put into it," he said.

He said the field performance on erosion control was sometimes too sloppy.

"Terania Creek got itself into the spotlight over the impact our operations were supposed to make on the rainforest," he said. "The fact that it is not rainforests, got to be beside the point."

Dr Gentle said that for environmental reasons the clearing of native forests for timber plantations was "just about out."

"Perhaps one more year of it and we will be on to land, and have to be on to land, which is substantially cleared in order to keep going in line with the pressures and policies of the Government," he said.

He said national parks now had most of the land they required for representative natural areas.

"Anything that is left in the Crown land coffers, if we want it now, should not be subject any longer to sympathetic feelings for the National Parks Service," he said.

The assistant director of the Total Environment Centre, Mr Jeff Angel, said yesterday: "The speech by Commissioner Gentle shows our forest estate is being drastically over-cut; that management plans have been a low priority; that royalties are too low; and soil ero-

sion controls ignored.

"The biggest loss to the people of NSW and Australia has been the damage to our native forests, wildlife and rivers.

"The Government should reform the Forestry Commission. It is a political embarrassment.

"The future of our native hardwood forests and rainforests is at stake."

Dr Gentle said yesterday that his speech was an "in-house pep talk such as you might give to a football team" soon after he took over as commissioner.

He said all the officers at the conference knew he was referring to the Grafton management district when he talked about over-cutting. But this problem had been corrected by a 25 per cent reduction in logging quotas last year and a further 25 per cent in four years time.

He said his reference to the commission's accounts showing a "loss on nearly everything" was a "throwaway line" to indicate to officers that they must do better. He said the commission was not expected to make a profit.

He said his reference to soil erosion was to let the officers know that there were too many minor technical breaches of the commission's standard erosion mitigation conditions.

"The situation has vastly improved in the last six months," he said. "Erosion conditions are now being observed very tightly."

LABOR, DEMOCRATS BACK STUDY OF TASMANIA ENVIRONMENT

Melbourne THE AGE in English 10 Sep 81 p 5

[Text]

CANBERRA — The Federal Opposition is to support a proposal for a Senate select committee of inquiry into the environmental value of south-west Tasmania.

The inquiry would also study whether Federal financial assistance might be necessary to preserve the wilderness and to meet future energy needs.

The Australian Democrats have already given notice that they will attempt to set up the inquiry by a vote in the Senate. The ALP and the Democrats need the vote of at least one Government senator to get the motion through. The independent Tasmanian Senator Harradine, is expected to vote against the proposal.

Tasmanian Liberal Senator Rae said last night that he might support the proposal, because he had an interest in and concern for south-west Tasmania.

But Senator Rae said he would make no commitment until he had studied the proposals.

The ALP Federal Caucus yesterday decided to support the Democrats' proposal, but will seek a slight amendment to the terms of reference of the proposed

select committee.

The ALP proposition is: "That a select committee, to be known as the select Tasmania, be appointed to committee on south-west inquire into and report on (A) the natural values of south-west Tasmania to Australia and the world and:

(B) Federal responsibility in assisting Tasmania to preserve its wilderness areas of national and international importance, including appropriate financial assistance consistent with the State's development and energy requirements."

"There is a very great need for a Federal examination of the environmental and energy issues involved," the ALP spokesman on environment and conservation, Mr West, said yesterday. South-west Tasmania is on the register of the National Estate and nominated for world heritage listing.

"As the three major hydro schemes under current discussion involve capital expenditure ranging from \$900 million to \$600 million obviously Loan Council funds are involved in at least 50 per cent of the total capital costs," said Mr West. He said the ALP wanted the committee to be established as soon as possible.



## FRANKLIN DAM PLEBISCITE STIRS POLITICAL ROW IN TASMANIA

### Call for Lowe's Resignation

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 24 Sep 81 p 1

[Article by Peter Dwyer]

[Text]

TASMANIANS will not get the chance in a coming referendum to oppose the building of a dam in the State's south-west wilderness.

The State Government instead decided to give voters only the choice of which of two dams should be built.

Yesterday the Parliamentary Labor Party ruled out the possibility of a "no dams" option in what the Premier, Mr Lowe, said was an overwhelming vote.

Angry conservationists claimed they had been disenfranchised by the decision, and said the referendum would be a farce and not binding.

The decision is seen as a rebuff for Mr Lowe, who was believed to have favored the no-dams option.

But outside Parliament yesterday he said the Labor Government had always supported continuing hydro-electric development.

The referendum question will say the Government, the Opposition and the Legislative Council supports a hydro dam on the Gordon River.

It will then give the electorate the choice of a dam above the junction with the Olga or below the junction with the Franklin.

In Parliament the Opposition Leader, Mr Pearsall, accused Mr Lowe of an about-turn on the no-dams option.

Mr Pearsall said Mr Lowe had told the press there would be such an option. He asked Mr Lowe if he was prepared to do the "honourable" thing and resign.

Mr Lowe said: "The Tasmanian Government is committed irrevocably to hydro development for the next two decades and the Government

could not accept the decision for no dams at all.

"The parliamentary party has voted overwhelmingly for the course of action I have just outlined, and the Government stands firmly — to a man — behind it."

Outside the Parliament, Mr Lowe called on the conservationists to back the Gordon above Olga dam, which would save the Franklin River.

But a leading conservationist, Dr Bob Brown, said the Government's decision had made a mockery of democracy in Tasmania.

"The majority of Tasmanians, and for that matter Australians, will be outraged by this decision to disenfranchise probably the majority of the electorate," he said.

A hasty television poll when the referendum was announced last week showed 69 per cent of Tasmanians favored no dam at all in the south-west.

## Editorial Assessment

Melbourne THE AGE in English 25 Sep 81 p 13

[Editorial]

[Text]

THERE is nothing to excuse the astonishing breach of faith by the Tasmanian Government over the coming referendum on its plans to dam the wild rivers of the South West. When announcing the referendum last week, the Premier, Mr Lowe, indicated that voters would be able to choose between three options: to flood both the Franklin and Gordon rivers, to flood the Gordon further upstream, or to leave the South West alone and seek other solutions to future power needs. Now the hard hats of the Labor Party and the trade union movement have forced the Premier to back down. Voters will not be allowed to vote for saving the South West, but will merely be allowed to choose between two dams in the heart of it.

This is not merely a blatant breach of the Premier's word. It is an arrogant manipulation of the democratic process, an attempt to coerce voters into approving the destruction of something that the majority may well have voted to keep. Mr Lowe himself summed it up well on Tuesday. If the "no dams" option was not canvassed, he said, it would place "a great question mark over the credibility of the referendum". It certainly will. From the start the main issue has been whether the South West should be dammed or preserved for the future. Opinion polls have repeatedly shown that many Tasmanians — sometimes a majority, sometimes

a substantial minority — want to keep the South West in its natural state. To deny them a chance to speak at the referendum is to further show that the Tasmanian Government is not competent to act as a trustee of our national heritage.

This gives still more reason to welcome the decision by the Senate to establish its own inquiry into the power schemes and the South West. It is now clear that the Federal Government will have to intervene if the superb valleys of the wild rivers are to be kept as they have been for millions of years. As films and photographs have shown us, they are among the most beautiful features of Australia. The Fraser Government has not only placed the entire South West on the register of the National Estate, but has nominated it for inclusion on the World Heritage List. There are feasible alternatives to the proposed dams — other hydro schemes, a coal-fired plant, a two-way electricity cable to the mainland, energy conservation, the use of industrial steam to generate in-house electricity, and the closure of the Comalco aluminium smelter, which uses up one-third of Tasmania's entire electricity consumption and provides a mere 1270 jobs. While these alternatives have not been given an independent and thorough investigation, the Federal Government must refuse to allow loan funds to be used to destroy one of Australia's best landscape assets.

CS0: 5000/7505

## STIFF FINES TO BE LEVIED IN AUTO POLLUTION VIOLATIONS

### NSW Draft Legislation

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Sep 81 p 3

[Article by Nicholas Rothwell]

[Excerpts]

**MOTORISTS** who fail to comply with strict new anti-pollution laws expected to be adopted nationally this year risk a \$1000 fine for every day their car exceeds the pollution standards.

The new legislation has already been drafted in NSW, which traditionally sets the standard for the other States on environmental policy.

The NSW laws provide heavy fines for individual motorists and car dealers if their vehicles fail to meet the new standards.

An owner who "knowingly" allows his car to exceed the emission standards risks a fine of \$1000 per offence, or \$1000 for every day the offence is committed.

Car dealers face fines of \$50,000 for each defective vehicle sold, even though the legislation makes it difficult for oil refineries to make the kind of petrol cars need to

meet the new standards.

All service stations will be required to sell lead-free petrol from special bowzers and no allowances are made for country service station owners who will not have the expensive new equipment installed for them by oil companies.

NSW legislation on environmental pollution automatically affects the decisions of other States because South Australia, Victoria and Queensland all refine petrol for country regions of NSW.

The NSW initiative on lead-free petrol was the basis for the national decision to switch to the new fuel.

Similarly, the new penalties will place pressure on other State governments to follow suit.

NSW environmental laws are normally followed in Victoria because of the close links between the NSW State Pollution Control Commission and the Victorian Environmental Protection Agency.

## Sydney Air Quality

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 22 Sep 81 p 5

[Article by Nicholas Rothwell]

[Excerpt]

SYDNEY. "Australia's most polluted city, will have cleaner air for the next 10 years, even if no further steps are taken to purify the exhausts of motor cars, a State Government study has concluded.

The latest State Pollution Control Commission study of Sydney's severe atmospheric pollution from motor cars — the key factor behind the NSW Government decision to adopt lead-free petrol — shows pollution levels are already falling.

The drop is a result of the introduction of vehicle exhaust emission controls in 1976.

A copy of the report by senior commission officials, entitled, *Projections of Motor Car*

*Hydro-carbon Emissions in Sydney*, has been obtained by *The Australian*, and shows the commission expects lead-free petrol to have dramatic effects on air pollution levels.

"The new exhaust standards should allow progressive reductions in gross emission levels until the end of the 1990s", it states.

But it warns that if lead-free petrol is not phased in as planned in 1986, pollution from motor vehicle emissions will rise again by the end of the century to the high point reached in 1975.

In that year cars spewed 86,000 tonnes of hydro-carbon fumes into Sydney's air.

The commission is one of the agencies responsible for drafting the pioneering NSW anti-pollution legislation.

CSO: 5000/7505

## BRIEFS

COMPUTER CHECK OF WASTE--EMI Electronics has installed a Data General NOVA 4X minicomputer to monitor wastes from a gas turbine power station in the Latrobe Valley. The computer, part of a \$200,000 system at the Jeeralang power station, will sound an alarm if emission levels are exceeded. The alarm system was developed by EMI under a grant from the Industrial Research and Development Incentives Board. The SEC ordered the system to meet the requirement of the Environment Protection Authority. Under EPA regulations, industrial plants which discharge waste into the atmosphere must be licensed. The new computer installation will monitor waste gases every 30 seconds and transfer the figures to a data base which compares the results with predetermined safety levels. If the limit is exceeded, an alarm alerts the operator to take the appropriate corrective action. The equipment includes the NOVA 4X, two printers, a 12.5 megabyte fixed disc, a magnetic tape and the EMI microcomputer scanner substation. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 8 Sep 81 p 39]

PESTICIDES IN TEA--Canberra--A Queensland Government survey had found pesticides not allowed under food and drug regulations in some brands of blended tea, the Federal Health Minister, Mr MacKellar, said yesterday. The pesticides discovered included aldrin, dieldrin and DDT. A Queensland Labor backbencher, Elaine Darling, asked Mr MacKellar in Parliament whether the survey had been referred to the National Health and Medical Research Council's subcommittee on pesticides. Mr MacKellar said the matter had been referred to the subcommittee which was of the opinion that the pesticide levels detected were low. "The results of the analyses carried out by the Queensland Government Chemical Laboratory revealed the presence of some organochlorine compounds," he said. "The survey has disclosed other pesticides not allowed under food and drug regulations." Disclosure of the names of the teas was a matter for the State authorities, he said. [Text] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 9 Sep 81 p 73]

VICTORIA CONSERVATION BUDGET--Funds for conservation have been cut in real terms, with an increase of only 3.7 percent on the last financial year. The total funds available to the Ministry of Conservation for 1981-82 will be \$37.3 million. The largest single items are \$6.5 million for salaries, administrative expenses and minor grants; \$4.9 million to the National Parks Fund and \$7.1 million to the Environment Protection Authority and its delegated agencies. The Soil Conservation Authority receives \$4 million in the Budget, up on its \$3.6 million for the past financial year. But Fisheries and Wildlife receives less--down to \$4.2 million from \$4.8 million. The Ministry's works and services programme is also down: from \$8.3 million to \$8.1 million.

The Conservation Council of Victoria has attacked the Government's financing of conservation, saying that without money to carry them out Government policies become window dressing. The council's director, Mr Geoff Wescott, said the Government was increasing the areas of national park to be managed but was not providing more staff to manage them. The Government put on a "front" of concern, but in fact conservation was a low priority, he said. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 17 Sep 81 p 17]

FRANKLIN DAM REFERENDUM--Hobart--Tasmania is to hold a referendum to settle the parliamentary deadlock over power schemes affecting the Franklin River wilderness area. The State Liberal Opposition immediately announced it would oppose the referendum. The Tasmanian Wilderness Society said it would mount the biggest campaign in Australia's conservation history to ensure a fair question and an informed vote. The Premier, Mr Lowe, announced the referendum yesterday after a 2-1/2 hour Caucus meeting. The Government and the Upper House have been deadlocked since last December when the Legislative Council voted in favour of a scheme which would have destroyed more of the wilderness area than an alternative, more costly scheme supported by the Government. [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 17 Sep 81 p 3]

2,4,5-T EXONERATION--New agricultural studies have suggested that the toxic herbicide 2,4,5-T does not remain in the soil after it has been sprayed on plants. The findings of a special research team set up by the NSW Department of Agriculture showed that the chemical spraying of large areas of national parks had not resulted in the pollution of rivers, and so would be unlikely to affect humans by accident. The use of 2,4,5-T as a weed-controlling herbicide has been the centre of controversy ever since the substance was used in Vietnam as an ingredient of the defoliant Agent Orange. But the substance is used by the National Parks and Wildlife Service only in recommended low concentrations, as a means of controlling scottish broom in the Barrington Tops National Park in NSW. Tests carried out by experts from the Biological and Chemical Research Institute at spray sites showed that 18ha of nearby drainage areas which were dosed with a total of 35,000 litres of diluted 2,4,5-T, showed little pollution only two weeks after being sprayed. [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Sep 81 p 2]

UNION DEVELOPMENT BOYCOTT--Plumbers threatened yesterday to impose their own quality controls over what they said was the "development disaster on the Gold Coast." The powerful Plumbers and Gasfitters Union said it would monitor all future development to ensure that companies and principals were not "rip-off merchants" and that environmental concerns--such as shadows cast over beaches by buildings--were not ignored. The State secretary of the union, Mr Tom Bourke, said yesterday: "The time has come for the union movement to show a sense of responsibility over the development disaster on the Gold Coast." Without the services of plumbers, through their official union, there is no chance of developments going ahead. Mr Bourke said: "We do not want, in any sense, to hold up important building work, but we must draw the line at buildings controlled by corporate crooks, who are merely dealing in funny money to make a fast buck. "They are responsible for the so-called real estate boom that makes it impossible for young couples to raise the finance for a first home. "Much of the development on the Gold Coast is insane, both financially and environmentally. "The place already looks like a huge multi-million-dollar slum, with buildings going up everywhere. "As responsible unionists we cannot allow this to continue, and will monitor every single job with extreme care from now on." [Text] [Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 18 Sep 81 p 3]



OIL WASTE POLLUTION--Canberra--The use of large quantities of waste oil to settle dust in the Puckapunyal military area north of Melbourne has been criticised by a parliamentary committee. The standing committee on public works said in a report tabled last week that the annual use of 20,000 litres of waste oil for this purpose was "a pollution problem of some magnitude." The report, on the proposed \$12 million redevelopment of the Armored Corps centre at Puckapunyal, said it was unreasonable that an environmental approval had been issued in 1977, when the project was only in "embryo" form. The committee recommended that the Defence Department, in conjunction with the Department of Home Affairs and Environment, review disposal methods "for all pollutant substances throughout Australia" to ensure they were in line with Federal, State and local laws. It also was concerned that the proposed improvements to tank hangars at Puckapunyal could result in waste water being channelled into the stormwater system. "The addition of one or two grease traps at a capital cost of approximately \$500 each would minimise any potential pollution dangers. Again the responsible authorities have exhibited concern," the report said. The waste oil is laid under the muzzles of guns to prevent dust obscuring the view of training gunners. The armored Corps centre's commanding officer, Lieutenant Colonel R.E. Bowd, said yesterday that water was not suitable for the job. The committee said the problem would be rectified by a recycling plant provided for in the redevelopment proposal, but this might not be in use until 1984. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 22 Sep 81 p 5]

CSO: 5000/7506

## CONSERVATIONISTS WIN VICTORY IN NATIVE FOREST PROTECTION

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 1

[Text] Conservationists yesterday won an 11th-hour victory they rated as the most significant in eight years of fighting for native forest protection.

The Government announced it would include the South Okarito and Waikukupa state forests in the Westland National Park.

The Minister of Forests, Mr V. S. Young, conceded that the decision was largely attributable to pressure from the conservation lobby.

### Tributes

The director of a joint campaign on native forests, Mr Guy Salmon, described it as "tremendous news for conservation . . . something we have been working for years and years."

Mr Young had agreed that an expanded national park was not in Government plans earlier this week.

Mr Salmon said he believed the policy was changed during a Government caucus meeting yesterday, although other sources said the decision was taken on Tuesday.

Mr Salmon paid tribute to the efforts of the Minister of the Environment, Dr Shearer, in helping to modify the Government's intention.

But it was clear yesterday that the conservationists, who took a full-page advertisement in a Wellington newspaper yesterday — were instrumental in effecting the change.

### Exotics

Mr Young said it was due to the widespread support for the campaign run by the Native Forests Action Council and the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, as well as the Government's desire for a balanced forestry policy.

Outlining plans described by conservationists as a "quid pro quo" compromise, Mr Young said it was intended to establish an exotic forest in South Westland of up to 10,000 hectares.

This would provide for long-term sawmilling and create jobs. The logging area contained no virgin native forest and all other forests around would be subject to a logging moratorium until 1990.

The new exotic forest would be planted in pine at first as a "bread and butter" crop, with other species introduced later.

### Long Push

The exact boundaries of the two forests to be added to the Westland National Park would be decided in consultation with the Westland National Parks and Reserves Board, said Mr Young. If there were any infringements on native timber stands, they would be minimal.

Yesterday's decisions were agreed unanimously by the

Government caucus, he said.

Dr Shearer said that for many years, conservationists had been advocating a "mountains - to - the - sea" native forest concept for the region.

"The decision today means that that concept has been achieved," he said.

### Surprised

It was particularly pleasing that sawmilling communities could be maintained from areas of already quite badly damaged forests and that nine years of scientific study could now begin in the moratorium area.

Mr Young and Dr Shearer would not be drawn on whether there had been any disagreement between them over the issue but both said the value of having the lands and environment portfolios held by separate ministers had been demonstrated.

Mr Salmon said it had been a tough fight to achieve yesterday's result — "the toughest in the last eight years."

"My feeling was that we were going to lose, and I was pretty surprised by the way it turned out."

He said the decision was "a reaffirmation of democracy" which reflected great credit on the 3000 people who had supported the campaign with submissions to the Government.



FARMERS DEMAND NEW STUDY ON PROPOSED FORESTRY PORT

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 17 Sep 81 p 8

[Excerpt]

Kalkohe

Farming leaders in Northland want an independent report made on plans for a forestry port in the North.

The presidents of the Whangarei and Bay of Islands subprovinces of Federated Farmers, Mr Andrew Priest and Mr Bruce Tolich, says the Northland United Council should make its own evaluation of the northland forestry port study and the environmental impact audit on it.

They say the council should ask the Development Finance Corporation to help in the re-appraisal.

The environmental impact audit, say Mr Priest and Mr Tolich, reflects the opinion of many Northlanders.

Badly Timed

"We welcome the suggestion that further studies be made," Mr Priest said.

"Farmers — as one body of people most likely to be affected by a badly timed or uneconomic port development — need further evidence to show the true situation with forestry and a forest port in Northland.

"We are very concerned at the minimal stumpage returns likely to be available to farmers and the audit report findings have done nothing to allay these fears."

The forestry port study recommended Marsden Pt as the outlet for Northland forest products.

# MINING LOBBY CONSIDERS MINING AMENDMENT BILL UNWORKABLE

## Imposes Exploration Curbs

Christchurch PRESS in English 10 Sep 81 p 20

[Text]

Parliamentary reporter  
New Zealand's biggest mining lobby consider the Mining Amendment Bill now before Parliament to be extremely cumbersome, if not entirely unworkable.

The Mineral Exploration Association, which accounts for 95 per cent of exploration spending in the country, has told the Commerce and Energy Select Committee that the bill is in direct contravention to the original purpose of the Mining Act. The stated purpose of the 1971 act is "to provide improved facilities for the development of mineral resources".

According to the association's president, Mr J. Lawrey, the amendments being considered appear to be designed to impose curbs on those seeking to explore and prospect.

"In endeavouring to provide a balance between conservation and development, the interests of the mineral industry have been subordinated to a degree which is in direct contravention to the avowed purpose of the act," he said.

The association submitted that an additional licence should be inserted into the licencing procedure.

Under the association's proposal, the procedure would be:

- First stage: an exploration licence, which would be under the same terms as proposed by the bill.

- Second stage: a prospecting licence, the main features of which would be grant by existing departmental processes with minimum fuss and delay, and with no provision for public hearing or objection. The licence would be available only for prospecting involving mineral impact on the environment.

- A new third stage: an evaluation licence. This would be required when environmental disturbance is envisaged. It would be open to objections and Planning Tribunal hearings. At this stage, too, a decision would be taken in principle to whether mining should take place; and

- Fourth stage: a mining licence. This would apply where an economic discovery was made. There would be provision for objections and hearings to influence the setting of conditions for mining.

Mr Lawrey said that the proposal would meet one of the main objections to the procedures existing under the act.

"This is the concern at the lack of detailed information as to possible mining available at the time of objection to a prospecting licence. We understand this concern," he said.

"The simple fact is that rarely, if ever, is a prospecting licence applicant in any position to state what might be mined, in what quantities, over what duration, by what methods, and what environmental impact this may have."

"At our proposed evaluation licence stage, much of this information will continue to be speculative, but the information available will be of better quality and more reliable than the information presently available."

"In other words, the community and the environmental interests will be better informed," Mr Lawrey said.

The association submitted that for every 1000 prospects considered, perhaps 100 would be examined on the ground, 10 drilled, and one brought into production (or at least made the subject of a detailed feasibility study).

"The major concern of the mineral mining industry today is that New Zealanders seem to be losing sight of the

economic contribution mining has made. There seems to be little appreciation of the potential the industry holds for renewed development at a time when the country desperately needs growth," the association said.

A 100ha dairy farm would take 750 years to gross as much revenue as the same area devoted to big hard-rock gold mining would in one year, it said.

At the end of the 15-year life of the mine, the land would be restored for alternative use such as recreation, forestry, or agriculture.

The total land area affected by mining in New Zealand was 240ha, the association said. The extent to which mineral mining could benefit New Zealand was speculative until results began to emerge from the present prospecting programme, but confirmed and proposed mining developments were expected to in-

volve expenditure of \$200 million over the next five years. Export revenue could total \$200 million a year for 15 years or more.

Mineral companies in New Zealand would spend about \$9 million this, of which 80 per cent would come from overseas and 20 per cent from local resources.

Total staff employed in exploration was about 110, of whom 103 were New Zealanders, and more part-time staff were employed during the peak season.

The number of people involved in servicing the exploration and mine development, either directly or indirectly was about 500, the association said.

Mining companies in New Zealand had fully accepted a responsibility for land restoration, even though the amount of land involved was miniscule, and built the cost for this into their studies.

### Fear Based on Ignorance

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 20 Aug 81 p 3

[Text]

#### Thames

The project manager for a prospecting firm says ignorance is responsible for the widespread fear of the effects mining has on the environment.

Ignorance of the role mining now played in the economy was considerable, both in public and Government circles, the project manager for Amax Exploration of NZ, Mr Michael Baker, told delegates at the annual conference of the New Zealand branch of the Australasian Institute of Mining and Metallurgy yesterday.

"This lack of knowledge of modern mining has been responsible for a fairly widespread fear of the effects of mining on the physical and social environment," he said.

"This fear has been played on by some political activists who have not

hesitated to make the most outrageous and often untrue statement to cloud and inflame the issue."

Such activists had "tended to move into prominent positions in moderate conservationist and environmental groups."

Mr Baker said that with new legislation to alleviate public fears over mining, "some of the more radical anti-miners" had begun to "change horses, with the next charge now appearing as an attack on the multinationals."

Mr Baker said New Zealand had to choose between sacrificing for a time "a very minor part of the green scenery" for some new industrial enterprise, or joining the ranks of the alternative lifestyle proponents.

He asked whether a more simple lifestyle was

a real alternative. Alternative lifestyle people were not as independent as they thought and still needed a wider world for their survival.

Mining could not solve New Zealand's problems, he said, but the contribution of foreign exchange earnings from future gold and silver mining could be as much as \$200 million—without any subsidies being required.

The trade-off for large-scale hard rock mining might be a maximum land use of 1000 hectares. Eighty per cent of this land could be rehabilitated fully and the remainder in varying degrees.

"The requirement today is for full environmental safeguards," he said. "No longer are the mining companies able to take a cheap option."

## West Coast Farmers' Fears

Christchurch PRESS in English 10 Sep 81 p 1

[Text]

PA Wellington

At least 50 or perhaps up to 80 per cent of West Coast farm land was now under application for mining privileges or had had licences granted over it, said the president of the West Coast province of Federated Farmers, Mr E. M. O'Regan, yesterday.

He was making a submission to a Parliamentary select committee considering the Mining Amendment Bill.

He said farmers were concerned about the effects of mining on the West Coast, particularly when many of them "daily are confronted with heaps of tailings that stand in mute testimony to the short-sighted policies which prevailed during the last mining boom of the 1930s and 1940s."

Mr O'Regan said Federated Farmers was worried about the definition of "prospecting" in the bill. Prospecting as defined at present could be as devastating to farms as mining and

therefore "the definition should be tightened."

The submission also proposed that "site committees" or arbitrators be appointed for large-scale mining projects as such persons could be very useful as a first recourse in disputes.

In another submission, Action for Environment said the bill fell far short of what was required. It considered that mining should be brought under the ambit of the Town and Country Planning Act as it was "absurd" that a major land use should be excluded from it.

The applicant should provide and advertise full information about the minerals sought and the proposed mining or prospecting method, and the time allowed for objections should be at least double that in the Town and Country Planning Act, the group said.

The Canterbury United Council said in its submission that the new bill was a big improvement on the existing

legislation. However, it criticised the fact that regional authorities would not be advised that a mining application had been made.

Nor was any provision made for notifying regional authorities or the public of prospecting applications. The council considered that this should be done.

Every Exploration Pty. Ltd. claimed that the bill, based on the Link Report, was ill-considered and poorly assimilated. The recommendations made by the report were "biased" and insufficient contact had been made with miners and geologists.

"All West Coast prospectors, miners, and mining companies support conservation and any methods or regulations to implement restoration, provided they are reasonable, but we do not want legislation passed because of the emotive and largely untrue accusations directed against the multinational companies," the company said.

CSO: 5000/9048

SOCIAL CREDIT POLICY ON MINING APPLICATIONS ANNOUNCED

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 25 Sep 81 p 16

[Text]

Wellington

Social Credit says it would legislate to ensure that protection of the environment was the first priority when mining applications were considered.

In a policy statement the league says it would secure ownership of all minerals to the Crown and establish a Government-funded Minerals Corporation to carry out exploration, delineation and assay.

•Proven opportunities would be developed by public mining companies, structured by agreement with the corporation.

"Although the export of minerals in the raw state occasionally appears attractive, Social Credit will continue to press the advantages of retaining them for our own use as and when we require them."

Social Credit would establish a mining court in conjunction with the Planning Tribunal to deal with applications to prospect and mine. Applications would be heard in the districts to which they related.

Mining rights would not be let to foreign interests unless it could be conclusively proved to be of advantage to New Zealand.

# MINING COMPANY WITHDRAWS OFFSHORE EXPLORATION LICENSE

Wellington EVENING POST in English 24 Aug 81 p 4

[Text]

A big Australian mining company, CRA Exploration, has withdrawn a controversial exploration licence application over several thousand square kilometres in the Firth of Thames.

Their withdrawal follows the Ministry of Energy's refusal to grant a prospecting licence to a New Zealand company wanting to operate offshore in the same area.

The head of the mines division of the Ministry of Energy, Mr Ray Burn, confirmed that an application by Consolidated Minerals Ltd, formerly Silver Mining Company of New Zealand, had been refused.

He would not disclose a reason for the refusal.

CRA Ltd of Melbourne, until recently Conzinc Riotinto of Australia Ltd, is one of the world's mining giants. Their proposals in the Thames area caused a storm of protest.

Any offshore dredging for alluvial gold was opposed on the grounds that it would ruin the multimillion dollar Hauraki fishing grounds.

But while one multinational has pulled out of the Coromandel area, another BP New Zealand Ltd, today announced it was seeking prospecting licences in the Waihi area.

A BP statement said the company had filed two applications for a com-

bined area of 1680 hectares near Waihi.

They would be looking for gold that could be mined underground, rather than opencast.

The environmental group Coromandel Watchdog today welcomed the news that CRA were pulling out, and welcomed the approach BP had taken to the area.

The group spokesman, Mr Peter Verschaffelt, said CRA and Conmineral had met with a wall of opposition when they proposed looking at mineral prospects in the offshore Thames area.

"We see it as a significant victory that they have pulled out," he said.

"But it is important to realise that while this is a significant victory there are still other areas threatened."

Mr Verschaffelt praised BP for approaching local residents and the Watchdog group to explain the company's plans before announcing them publicly.

"We welcome their approach. It shows a mining company meeting its responsibilities by setting up a meaningful dialogue with the people who live here."

"It is such a contrast to the attitudes of the other mining companies."

## ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY FIGHTS ALUMINUM SMELTER REPORT

Wellington EVENING POST in English 1 Oct 81 p 4

[Text]

The environmental impact report on the Aramoana aluminium smelter was challenged in the Court of Appeal today.

The Environmental Defence Society is seeking a declaration by the court that the report is inadequate and should be declared a nullity.

Two separate actions, under the National Development Act and under the Judicature Act, are being pursued in a bid for a declaration.

The court comprises the President, Sir Owen Woodhouse, Mr Justice Cooke, Mr Justice Richardson and Mr Justice McMullin.

Mr P M Salmon is appearing for the plaintiff society. Mr E W Thomas, QC, for South Pacific Aluminium Limited (first defendant) and the Otago Harbour Board (second defendant). Mr R J Somerville, with him Mrs S Kenderdine, for the commissioner for the environ-

ment. Mr Kenneth William Piddington (third defendant) and Mr K Robinson for the Planning Tribunal (fourth defendant).

The purpose of the litigation was to define what was meant by an environmental impact report as prescribed in the National Development Act. Mr Salmon said in his submissions.

The Act contained no words limiting the phrase "environmental impact report" and the courts should not limit.

The plaintiff claimed that the report should extend to the secondary effects of the smelter, in particular the implications of the demand for electricity by the smelter in terms of the necessity for the construction of further electricity generating works.

It was admitted that the report did not address itself to the question of electricity supply and was generally limited to "site specific" matters, Mr Salmon said.

In a project of the magni-

tude of the smelter, broad national environmental issues were highly relevant and the report should be extended to include additional pressures, on energy resources.

They should be examined in the report even if only in a general sense, counsel said.

Mr Salmon said the defendants' answers had been three-fold.

They claimed that the commissioner need do no more than had been done, that other environmental impact reports prepared under the National Development Act procedures had not dealt with secondary impact or national matters, and that there was no definable connection between the smelter and the Clutha electricity scheme.

The plain words of the statute did not exclude indirect impacts, Mr Salmon said.

The term environment was wide enough to cover all matters that impinged on a particular proposal, he said.



PROPOSED OIL PIPELINE SEEN THREATENING SAND DUNE EROSION

Auckland NEW ZEALAND HERALD in English 21 Aug 81 p 8

[Text] Whangarei--The Northland Harbour Board is worried that a proposed oil pipeline could accelerate sand dune erosion at the Whangarei Harbour entrance.

The board yesterday considered the NZ Refining Company's environment report on the pipeline and decided to send its comments to the Ministry of Energy.

The board was told by its harbour engineer, Mr Colin Squires, that the company intended taking the pipe across the foreshore, from south of Ruakaka to Waipu.

The report claimed the ecological effect would be small and anticipated no problems, Mr Squires said.

Extreme Caution

"But sand dunes are notoriously unstable," he said, "and any development in or among the foredunes should be undertaken with extreme caution.

"It would appear that the sand dune option has been taken to minimise damage to farmland.

"Unfortunately, sand dunes are significantly more sensitive to environmental damage and greater attention should be given to this matter.

The board also considered the risk of oil spills from breaks in the pipeline.

The report did not consider a method of cleaning spilled material, Mr Squires said.

He told the board that the pipeline would, in 1985, divert between 560,000 tonnes and 770,000 tonnes away from the board's coastal tanker trade.



#### Fewer Tankers

That would result in 21 to 29 fewer coastal tankers calling at Marsden Pt and revenue could be reduced by as much as \$731,000.

But more cargo would come across the refinery wharves, particularly if synthetic gasoline from Taranaki was shipped to Marsden Pt for blending.

CSO: 5000/9048

## BRIEFS

**DETERMINATION OF VANADIUM IN WATER**--This paper reports a study on the condition for using BPHA for extracting and concentrating vanadium with the high temperature graphite furnace atomic absorption method. Ordinary ion exchange and solvent extraction methods have been reported by others. Ishizaki et al (TALANTA Vol 26 (1980) p 523) discussed the use of BPHA and its derivatives but concluded that they cannot be used to extract vanadium of the  $\mu\text{g}$  level. In view of the fact that BPHA is easily available, the authors carried out this experiment. They found BPHA extraction to be satisfactory in determining the vanadium content in water, waste water, and sea water to the level of  $10^{-7}$  to  $10^{-4}$  g of vanadium per liter of water. Effects of water acidity, BPHA density, and other conditions are discussed. [Summary] [Beijing HUANGJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 1-3] 6248

**DETERMINATION OF COBALT IN SOIL**--The use of the high temperature graphite furnace atomic absorption method to determine cobalt in soil has been reported before, but extraction is required to improve sensitivity and reduce interference. The use of heat decomposition graphite painted graphite tube can improve sensitivity but its use in determining cobalt has not yet been reported. The authors used the WFD-Y3 atomic absorption spectrometer, a WFX-1 graphite furnace, and a LZ3-100 function recorder to carry out the experiment. Nitric acid and hydrofluoric acid are used to break down and sulfuric acid to smoke the specimen. Lanthanum, calcium, and ascorbic acid are used to eliminate interference, and a deuterium lamp to minimize background absorption to determine cobalt in soil. Results are reported. [Summary] [Beijing HUANGJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 4-7] 6248

**IDENTIFICATION OF BENO(K) FLUORANTHENE**--Published literature of the past two decades indicates that BkF is an important element of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) in the atmospheric dust particles, and is also one of the six PAH to be tested in drinking water. Isomers of BkF, including BaP, BbF, and BeP have different carcinogenic action; due to their close chemical property, mutual interference exists during analysis. Its isolation (and identification among the four chemicals) is, therefore, an important and difficult subject in PAH analysis work. This paper reports the work of analyzing the dust and water samples of a certain coking plant in Beijing to isolate and identify 15 major PAH. Most recently synthesized domestic GC-MS and paper chromatographic-fluorimetric method are used. The analysis procedure and result are reported. [Summary] [Beijing HUANGJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 7-10] 6248

**DIPHENOL ETHER POLLUTION IN SOIL**--In south China, mud from the bottom of streams and rivers is regularly dredged and used as fertilizer and through this type of mud the pollutants discharged by some chemical plants enter the fields. Diphenol ether has been rather extensively used in China mainly as a heat carrier. In April 1977, in a certain area of Suzhou, 7,500 tons of mud from the canal was used to make a compost and applied in rice paddies. Soon afterwards, seedlings died in massive numbers, and earthworms, eels, etc. which are highly pollutant-resistant, completely disappeared from these paddies. Workers who had had contact with the mud developed a series of symptoms. An analysis disclosed the fact that the mud was highly contaminated by diphenol ether. This paper reports a preliminary study on the duration of retention of diphenol ether in soil and its effects on rice and wheat. Results indicate that the maximum tolerance of the chemical by rice is 25ppm, and 200ppm for wheat. Its retention in soil is about 3 months. [Summary] [Beijing HUANJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 18-21] 6248

**ORGANIC ARSENATES**--In provinces of Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, Taiwan, etc. zinc methylarsonate (Daojiaoding) and calcium methylarsonate are frequently and extensively used to control sheath and culm blight of rice (*Pellicularia sasakii* (shirai) Ito). These insecticides are easily made, highly effective, and very inexpensive, but whether or not they will cause pollution of rice paddies is a problem of extreme concern for many people and opinions vary a great deal on the subject. In the past few years the authors have been studying their distribution in soils and their traces and residues in rice grain. Samples are taken from 10 counties of Zhejiang Province. A comparison of early rice seeds and harvested rice seeds indicates that the residual arsenic content is less than the permissible standard of the state. There is no obvious conclusion regarding their contamination of soil. Continued observation is deemed necessary. [Summary] [Beijing HUANJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 29-32] 6248

**ATMOSPHERIC FLUORO-CONTAMINANTS**--Four vegetable-producing areas in the vicinity of the main source of fluoride contaminants are selected for sample study and specimens of two areas, 65 km and 31 km respectively from Baotou Steel and Iron Company, which is the source of fluoride pollution, are used as the control. Results of the study demonstrate that atmospheric fluorides can cause the fluorine content of vegetables to increase but the effect of fluoride-containing irrigation water is less obvious. The fluorine content of vegetables is the highest in the leaves and the lowest in the fruits, and the fluorine content of vegetables is water soluble. Soaking vegetables in water may cause the fluorine content to be reduced considerably. [Summary] [Beijing HUANJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 41-44] 6248

**CHLORINATED PESTICIDE**--Although gas chromatography has often been used in the analysis of chlorinated pesticide contents in water, some problems remain unresolved. The pesticide content of a water specimen is usually very low and concentration is necessary beforehand. Generally, either an absorbing agent or funnel extraction is adopted for concentration and both are complex and time consuming. Since the bonded-phase technique was proposed by W.Aue in 1973 (*J. CHROMATOGR.* Vol 77 (1974) p 299) this new stationary phase has attracted increasing attention. This paper reports an experiment testing this technique.

After 405 support body is bonded to Carbowax 20 M, the SE-30 stationary phase is smeared on and used to analyze the organic chlorine insecticide content of water. Results indicate that when this bonded-phase is combined with an electron capture detector, 0.005 ppb of insecticide (para  $\alpha$ -BHC) in water may be identified. [Summary] [Beijing HUANJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 46-50] 6248

HILBERT SPACE THEORY--This paper reports an attempt of applying the Hilbert space theory for a vector analysis mathematical model to derive an index of comprehensive environmental pollution. This model is compared with other models, such as the N.L. Nemerow model, to prove that this model can clearly reflect the contribution of each pollutant and determine the compound action of all pollutants. A sample environment is given to explain that although the content of each pollutant does not exceed the permissible standard by itself, the compound result does exceed the limit allowable and in an environment such as this fish will die. [Summary] [Beijing HUANJING KEXUE [ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE] in Chinese Vol 2 No 4, 30 Aug 81 pp 57-60, 79] 6248

CSO: 5000/400.

## DEFORESTATION ACCELERATES, PROCESS TO BE COMPLETE IN 12 YEARS

Bangkok THE NATION REVIEW in English 2 Oct 81 p 5

[Article by Thaung Mying]

[Text]

**I**N ANOTHER 12 years Thailand's forests, which covered 60 per cent of the country 20 years ago, will have disappeared, leaving a barren wasteland, according to forestry officials.

Indiscriminate felling of timber in the last two decades has raised the spectre of a land, once thickly carpeted by jungle, being turned into a treeless wilderness well before the end of the century.

Forests of teak and other hardwoods now cover only 120,000 square kilometres (46,300 square miles) of Thailand's total land area of 520,000 square kilometres (200,000 square miles), officials say.

And they warn that if the current rate of depletion — 10,000 square kilometres (3,800 square miles) a year — continues every tree in Thailand will have gone by 1993.

That is a conservative estimate, according to Professor Prapasri Sirichanya of Chulalongkorn University, who believes the rate of forest destruction is far higher and says Thailand's trees will have disappeared within six years.

#### ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS

THE professor who specializes in natural resources said the calamity would have far-reaching economic repercussions.

"The entire economy can be disrupted, with droughts, floods and anxiety the order of the day," she warned.

Thailand had a foretaste of Professor Prapasri's warning in 1979 when it was hit by the worst drought in 30 years. The drought was not broken until last year.

Major crops such as rice and sugarcane shrivelled. Agricultural exports plummeted. Water behind hydroelectric and other major dams fell and electricity and farm water supplies were endangered.

The problems, compounded by rising costs of imported Middle East oil, led to widespread discontent and the fall of General Kriangsak Chomanan's three year-old government early in 1980.

Denudation of the forests began barely 20 years ago. An aerial survey in 1960 by the Royal Forestry Department showed 60 per cent of Thailand still covered by trees.

Another survey 17 years later revealed the forests had shrunk to only 38 per cent of the total land area.

#### ILLEGAL LOGGING

OFFICIALS and experts blame the loss of the forests on illegal logging, pressure of the population on land and the country's unbalanced economic development.

Illegal lumbering and trespass by land-hungry farmers and three million people of hill tribes practising wasteful slash-and-burn cultivation are responsible for destruction of 60 per cent of the forests, they say.

Forests became so depleted that teak production fell sharply from 359,000 cubic metres (12,678,000 cubic feet) in 1954 to 139,000 cubic metres (4,900,000 cubic feet)

in 1976. In the following year the government banned all teak exports in an attempt to halt illegal logging.

The ban was partially lifted later to allow export of teak conversions — teak boards and planks. But production from the remaining forests was so small that teak and other timber exports last year fell to just over 2,000 cubic metres (72,000 cubic feet).

## REAFFORESTATION PLANS

THE Thai Government has now announced a plan to restore the forests on 250,000 square kilometres (96,500 square miles), or nearly half of Thailand, through various measures.

The reafforestation plans involve replanting of trees by the Royal Forestry Department, the state-owned forestry industry organization, and private companies holding forest concessions.

Areas planted with trees would be divided into protective and productive forests. Lumbering would be banned from protective forests

covering watersheds and housing national parks while wood for economic use would be made available only from productive forests.

But, doubts have been expressed by both officials and conservationists whether the government can implement its plan.

They say that reforestation plans in the past did not work simply because the government lacked the manpower to tend to tree saplings which fall victim to destructive weed and grass.

And the government seems reluctant to resort to wholesale eviction of hundreds of thousands of families settled in reserved forests, fearing they might join an estimated 10,000 communist guerrillas operating in the jungles and hills.

Forestry and police departments have so far been unable to suppress large-scale illegal logging operations by economically influential groups using bulldozers and protected by hired gunmen.

CSO: 5000/4504

EL SALVADOR

BRIEFS

NATURAL RESOURCES RESEARCH--San Salvador, 30 Sep (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government has spent \$24 million on renewable and nonrenewable natural resource research in 1981. The program includes reforestation, technical assistance, determination of present usage and potential of soils, development of national parks and the diminishing of contamination level in waters. The program is intended to improve the use, development and conservation of natural resources in order to contribute to the nation's economic and social progress, official sources explained. [Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1945 GMT 30 Sep 81 PA]

CSO: 5000/2011



## COUNTRY MAY DO OWN TESTING OF U.S.-MADE CHEMICALS

Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 24 Sep 81 p 13

[Article by Seija Sartti: "Sales Permits To Control Substances Will Be Subjected to Reconsideration"]

[Text] How many of Finland's 300 pesticides and herbicides are being marketed as a result of questionable laboratory testing or fraudulent research is at this time a complete mystery. In order to clarify this matter, officials would have to go through 10--30 studies on each substance.

Somewhere the time, money, and expertise must be found for reading perhaps hundreds of thousands of pages at the worst. No small country can afford to test these substances by conducting expensive toxicity tests again, tests that can take many years.

Trust must be placed in foreign studies -- in spite of the fact that the manufacturers of pesticides and herbicides conduct the studies themselves in commercial laboratories, which they themselves may even own.

Suspicious concerning the credibility of the results of these studies were strengthened when the largest laboratory in the United States, Industrial Biotech Laboratory (IBT), was indicted in 1976 for falsifying test results. Control substances were approved for sale in numerous countries on the basis of the IBT study.

### One-Third Are Fraudulent

In Finland, among other places, three substances were not approved for marketing after the IBT scandal. Officials are now studying a couple other preparations, a portion of which was tested by IBT. Most likely new studies will be required in place of the suspicious studies.

The IBT scandal initiated the most extensive report on the credibility of laboratories in the United States. Officials of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conducted studies on the extermination agents of 82 research laboratories.

According to them 25 laboratories have knowingly conducted fraudulent or such low-quality tests that it is not possible to trust in the results.



On Friday the apostle of Swedish environmentalism, Licentiate in Philosophy Bjorn Gillberg, arrived in Finland to present the EPA's report. According to him hundreds of control substances have been permitted for sale in various countries on the basis of the "criminal" studies conducted by American laboratories.

Gillberg states he obtained an EPA secret report from a certain high official of the EPA and he does not doubt its authenticity. Finnish officials have just obtained copies of the same report from Nordic experts on pesticides and herbicides.

Finnish officials apparently intend to contact EPA officials to verify the authenticity of the report. In the USA the EPA is that authority which approves control substances for the market and in this matter corresponds to Finland's Plant Protection Institute.

In Sweden Gillberg has presented the EPA's report to the Environmental Protection Committee, among others. The umbrella organization for local environmental protection groups has demanded that an immediate ban be placed on all those control substances which were approved on the basis of studies conducted by fraudulent laboratories.

Finland's League for the Protection of Nature, for its part, is demanding that questionable control substances be retested in an impartial research laboratory. In the opinion of the league questionable control substances should not be used for the duration of the study.

#### "Reports Must Be Read Through"

"Control substances on the market must be gone through item by item and all the toxicological studies that have been conducted on them must be listed and evaluated," states Olvi Phakala, a chemist in the Central Medical Board.

He cannot even guess as to how much time this will take. In Finland, however, there are few toxicology experts who would be able to evaluate the toxicity tests on control substances and they would be doing this in addition to their other work.

The Central Medical Board has otherwise been busy this year with the testing of such extermination agents about which new information has been obtained concerning the toxicity of their active ingredients. This year three active ingredients, which the Central Medical Board has not deemed desirable for use, were deleted from the register.

Generally the importers remove such substances from the market without having to be told.

According to Phakala Finnish law requires clear proof of the detrimental effects of a substance before it is able to prohibit its sale. On the other hand, it has become more difficult to place new items on the market since safety requirements have been tightened up.

There has long been a propaganda war concerning the use of control substances between the environmentalists and those importing and selling these substances.

Enterprises and farmers point out that crops will diminish decisively if they cannot chemically control plant diseases and destructive insects.

Enterprises also emphasize the fact that no large enterprise can afford to spoil its reputation by importing and selling control substances which have not undergone the most reliable testing. There is a desire to avoid scandals concerning cancer and damage to the unborn.

The most significant manufacturers of control substances used in Finland are European, whose "research morality" is argued to be higher than that of the Americans. Nevertheless, this does not eliminate the possibility that some of the testing on European products was conducted in the United States.

Environmentalists, for their part, point out that there is no information on the long-term and extensive use of chemicals. Even the most reliable tests do not reveal all the detrimental effects which a substance can have when introduced into the environment over a long period of time.

One propaganda trump that the environmentalists have is that the research reports sent to the officials of enterprises are secret so that outsiders cannot evaluate the results. The Plant Protection Institute points out that the toxicity tests conducted by enterprises are their property, which cannot be given out for the use of outsiders.

Presumably, the right to secrecy with respect to these reports will be tested in Finland in the highest courts just as the environmentalists are doing in Sweden. On the other hand, even if the studies were made public, an impartial evaluation of them would still be difficult because of a paucity of experts.

Frequently the experts used by the authorities and the experts used by enterprises interpret the results of the studies in different ways since what can be decided or not decided on the basis of toxicity tests is not indisputable.

"It is, however, universally accepted by authorities that these tests are the only ones available and they must be trusted even though they are not 100 percent reliable. If a substance is dangerous, this will become evident even if tests are conducted somewhat halfhazardly," states Pahkala.

Pahkala points out that in addition to medicines, control substances are the best tested chemicals.

According to him the world's toxicological capacity is sufficient for the complete testing of 500 chemicals annually. There are only 3,500 chemicals which have been completely tested in use even though there are tens of thousands of chemicals.

"The attitude of the authorities is that we should commence the systematic testing of all new products before they are put on the market," states Pahkala.

There are masses of chemicals in the environment which do not require the kind of safety guarantees that are applied to pesticides and herbicides.

10576

CSU: 5000/2001

## BRIEFS

DDT, PCB AFFECT BALTIC--According to a just completed report on the condition of the Baltic Sea, DDT used as an extermination agent, along with its derivatives, and PCP, used by the chemical industry, contribute the most to the pollution of the Baltic Sea. This report is the first to deal with the pollution of the whole area of the Baltic Sea. All seven Baltic countries participated in its compilation. The scientific material was written by approximately 30 scientists. Additional information was provided by nearly 100 researchers. According to the report, DDT is the reason that the bird population is reproducing at a slower rate. Poison has weakened the structure of the egg shell. PCB-substances, on the other hand, are found to be guilty of the disappearance of Baltic Sea seals in the Gulf of Bothnia. In the same manner as birds, seals are also reproducing at a slower rate. PCT-substances and chlorinated terpenes have been found as completely new poisons in recent years in certain areas of the Baltic Sea. It is known that they become concentrated in the food chain, but their effect is not yet known. The countries bordering the Baltic Sea have become heavily industrialized. This can be seen in the heavy metals that have accumulated on the bottom strata of the sea's depressions. Mercury, cadmium, zinc, and lead have increased the most on the bottom strata. Now that the dangers of mercury and DDT have become known, their emission has been forcefully restricted in all countries belonging to the Baltic Sea Agreement. Results have already been achieved: mercury- and DDT-contents in fish have decreased. The Commission for the Protection of the Baltic Sea Marine Environment will convene in Helsinki this week. The meeting will discuss the condition of the Baltic Sea and the application of present knowledge in the practical protection of its environment. [Text] [Helsinki HELSINGIN SANOMAT in Finnish 24 Sep 81 p 12] 10576

## NEUTRALIZING PROCEDURE FOR INDUSTRIAL WASTES DESCRIBED

Paris L'USINE NOUVELLE in French Sept 24 81 pp 42-43

[Article by Michel Dabaji: "Elimination of Chlorinated Wastes: A Solution that Meets the Norms"]

[Text] A dry process for filtration and absorption-neutralization of acid-bearing incinerator smoke is now used at the Gerep industrial wastes disposal center to absorb a non-negligible part of the production of chlorinated liquid wastes from the Paris area. Applied for the first time in this type of activity, this process could be adapted to other industries.

Do you know that there is at least one product whose exportation costs us money? This is not entirely a joke: there are few installations in France capable of eliminating a certain category of liquid chlorinated wastes of the solvent type and other combustible wastes. So what is being done? Two specialized companies are employed to go burn them in the North Sea, off the coast of Holland, on two ships, one registered in Germany and the other in Singapore! And this operation is very naturally financed by a government agency.

Thus the level of interest in the installation just completed at Mitry-Compans (Seine-et-Marne) by the GEREP [Group for the Elimination of Polluting Wastes], of the Lyons Water Company. This industrial wastes disposal center, which has been in operation since 1976, has invested 2 million francs in a process, new in France, at least in this application. It will now be used to treat a non-negligible part of the organic chlorinated wastes produced in the Paris region. "In our area of activity," explains Mr. Gerard Millot, Manager of the center, "it is all a question of regulation. If these waste materials are being burned in the North Sea, it is because their combustion produces acid and dust-bearing smoke." There is in France, in the Lyons region, a center capable of treating these waste products within the tight specifications established by the French government concerning air pollution. But on the one hand this center, which uses a scrubber (using water and soda), does not have the capability to handle the whole French production of this type of waste material, and on the other hand, to dispose of it in the Lyons area is more expensive than to carry it into the North Sea.

## Incineration Capability Close to 20,000 Tons Year

"Finally, there are still some technical problems in the smoke scrubbing process: the smallest failure (a broken pump or, as it happened before, to introduce waste in the scrubber at high temperature) is sufficient to melt the lower part of the device, which is covered with ebonite." The cost of such an incident runs into several million francs! Finally, the process results in having to treat a high volume of scrubbing wastes.

Previously, everything at GEREP was incinerated "without thinking about the environment" they admit. The gas was run through a humid scrubber producing smoke that did not meet the required norms. A year and a half ago, as a result of the creation of a local protection committee, it became necessary to start meeting the specifications, and produce smoke containing specifically no more than 150 mg/m<sup>3</sup> of dust, and 10 kg/h of chlorine. "It was impossible for me to invest in a very sophisticated scrubber and moreover, such an installation would have required processing scrubbing wastes. I therefore decided," continues Mr. Millot, "to filter the smoke to reduce the dust content and, in order not to have to meet the chlorine specification, not to accept chlorinated wastes!" At least, he will continue burning wastes containing less than 1 percent of this halogen. The rest will be disposed of in the North Sea.

Mr. Gerard Millot, who now has the capability of handling close to 20,000 tons/year, then contacted the Genevet Company and explained his problem: smoke (bearing unknown components at varying concentrations) to be filtered and containing chlorine (which is present even when the percentage of chlorine entering the system has been reduced), resulting in high risks of corrosion. Furthermore, the smoke comes out of rotating furnaces heated at more than 1,000°C, resulting in a need to cool it in order not to damage the filters, but not too much to avoid condensing the chlorhydric acid. For Mr. Lucien Parrot, of the technical department at Genevet Company, the problem is also that there are also soluble particles smaller than one micron. "I knew I would need an agglomerating additive in order to be able to use a filter downstream from the smoke cooler."

The first tests using calcium hydroxyde resulted in complete failure: slaked lime is unable to absorb the excess water produced by the neutralization of HCl by the hydroxyde and "everything was getting clogged." The next idea was to use quick lime to be introduced upstream from the cooler and, downstream, the filter to retain dust and lime powder. The idea turned out to be good especially since "for chlorine, still expected to be present in concentrations of less than 1 percent, quick lime could not hurt!"

## Efficiency Around 95 to 98 Percent for Chlorine

The first tests carried out starting last February are very promising: not only is dust removed with an efficiency of about 99 percent ("the effluent contained 12 mg/m<sup>3</sup>, or almost 10 times less than specified"), but chlorhydric acid was neutralized while stopping the calcium chloride produced. Water was absorbed by the excess lime. "We then thought that since the system worked with chlorine at less than 1 percent concentration," added Mr. Millot, "why not try 2 percent and even



"more? Especially since the people at Genevet indicated that it would only be necessary to modify some parts of the installation."

This is how was born this process for the treatment of acid smoke which, according to the responsible government agency, could be substituted entirely for the North Sea method. This is as a result of a first set of measurements carried out last March by the IRCHA [Institute for Applied Chemical Research], using chlorine concentrations of 3, 9, 12, and 15 percent (with the last sample yielding incoherent results) confirms (while waiting for a second set of measurements in September) that the removal efficiency for chlorine is around 95 to 98 percent for chlorine concentrations up to 9 percent.

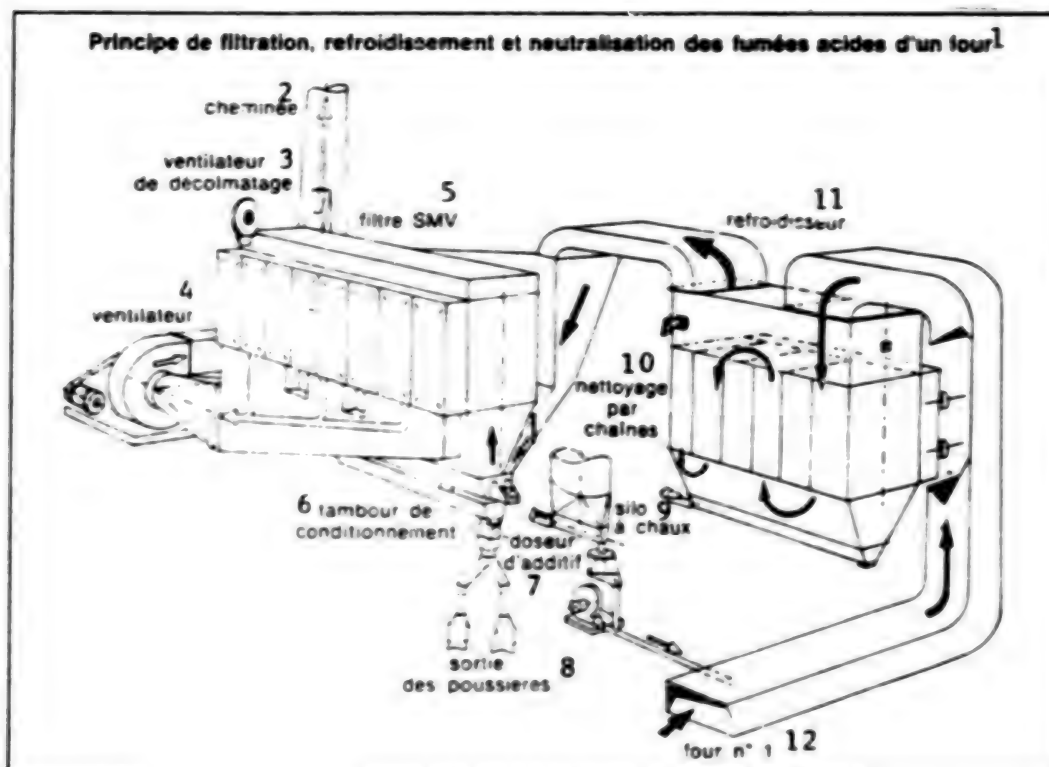
As for dust, it is almost totally removed in all samples. "If the incoherent results obtained with the 15 percent sample finally show, which is not very probable, that the process is less efficient at high chlorine concentrations, this would not really hamper the operation since the concentration is never higher than 30 percent anyway, and it is always possible to spread the concentration, which is often done, even if only to even out the heat producing capacity. We are therefore in fact always below 15 percent." Another cause of happiness for Mr. Millot is that "using this dry process, we do not have to treat scrubbing effluents and more importantly, just like at Mitry, we also detoxify acid effluents from surface treatment, we recycle the used lime (less expensive than soda) for neutralization."

In fact, as points out Mr. Lucien Parrot, the GERE installation is only a particular application of an old absorption process used in the brick and roof tile industry. "Here we have demonstrated, by solving a very difficult filtration problem, that it was possible to use cloth filters to treat furnace smoke containing particles smaller than one micron with acid gas (chlorinated or not) in small quantities. I am also planning to install this same process to remove dust, fluorine, and chlorine from a kiln and drier combination at a French brick and roof tiles factory: once cleaned up, the smoke will be recycled into the kiln. The result will be some very important energy savings."

#### The Process Used

Furnace smoke is mixed with air to lower the temperature to 550°C. It is then cooled some more to temperatures between 120 and 130°C, in order to be compatible with the acrylic cloth filter sleeves, through a tube exchanger which is cleaned using a chain system. Calibrated amounts of lime are introduced at the input to the cooler to neutralize the acid gas. The mixture of dust and additives is then distributed to a conditioning drum, the main part of the installation. It is this drum which is used to recycle the additive to the filter for several hours: at the GERE installation, lime (almost one ton) remains in the device for about 10 hours and is extracted through this ceramic balls rotor when saturation reaches about 80 percent. Above this level, there is a risk of clogging the filters since calcium chloride becomes deliquescent. This drug system avoids the external recycling of a large amount of powder: it used to place the unused lime in suspension automatically and extract it continuously as soon as required. Unclogging using pulsated air is controlled by an electronic timer. A temperature regulation system prevents risks of condensation at start-up time. Finally, and paradoxically, mechanical failures can make the installation reliable! As an example, an

incorrect concentration of the additive results in clogging of the tubes in the hot section of the cooler and causes the system to stop. After six months of operation, no corrosion of the cooling tubes has been noted and the filter is intact. Genevet anticipates a life of at least three years for the filters.



Key:

- |                                                                              |                                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Principle of filtration, cooling and neutralization of acid furnace smoke | 6. Conditioning drum             |
| 2. Smokestack                                                                | 7. Measuring hopper for additive |
| 3. Unclogging fan                                                            | 8. Dust exit                     |
| 4. Fan                                                                       | 9. Lime hopper                   |
| 5. SMV filter                                                                | 10. Chain cleaner                |
|                                                                              | 11. Cooler                       |
|                                                                              | 12. No 1 furnace                 |

6445

CSO: 5000/2005

## BRIEFS

ATHENS AIR POLLUTION--Athens, 26 Sept--As the Greek capital sweltered in a freak heatwave this weekend, its nine major hospitals have been treating more than 800 people suffering the effects of air pollution. The Pan-Hellenic Ecological Research Centre, cited in Press reports here, blamed a noxious cloud hanging over the city for headaches, fainting, nausea and other respiratory complaints amongst those treated. Environmentalists said exceptionally high levels of nitrous oxide and other toxic fumes in the atmosphere were a public health risk. But by today the Government Health Ministry had refused to declare a state of emergency or take appropriate measures to combat the pollution, they said. The environmentalists said 834 people had been treated for the effects of air pollution in the last four days compared to only 204 in the entire four months preceding the appearance of the toxic cloud. The poisonous cloud has sunk to within 60 metres (about 190 feet) from the ground because of unusually high temperatures and lack of wind. The pollution has become a political issue in the capital as Greeks prepare to go to the polls on October 18. NAB/AFP [Text] [Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE's DAILY in English 28 Sep 81 p 5]

CSO: 5000/4902



AUTHORITIES CONCERNED OVER U.S. CHEMICALS TESTING

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 16 Sep 81 p 6

["Environmental Center: False Tests Behind Approval of Environmental Poisons"]

[Text] A large number of chemical pesticides and insecticides which have been used in Sweden were approved on the basis of falsified tests about the damaging effects of the preparations.

This was asserted on Tuesday by the Environmental Center foundation through Bjorn O. Gillberg in a written statement to the Product Control Board of the State Environmental Protection Agency.

The falsifications led to a large number of pesticides being declared harmless by the Product Control Board, when in fact they may be hazardous to people and to the environment.

The Environmental Center maintains that 25 out of 82 U.S. laboratories cheat or falsify the results of their tests.

To support this allegation, reference is made to a secret report by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to which Bjorn O. Gillberg has received access and which has now been submitted to the Swedish Product Control Board.

Scandal

The reason why the Environmental Center has scrutinized the U.S. tests is a similar scandal in the United States in 1976, when one of the largest laboratories was discovered to have falsified tests. The disclosure led to a ban in Sweden on about 10 different pesticides and insecticides which had been approved after test results from the United States.

The Product Control Board has not yet reviewed the report by the Environmental Center and therefore does not want to comment on the accuracy of what is asserted. The board does admit, however, that it must rely entirely on foreign laboratories in approving pesticides for use in Sweden.

"We have no funds for conducting our own tests," one says at the Product Control Board.

11949

CSO: 5000/2002

MINISTRY SECTION CHIEF: TIGHTER EMISSIONS COULD HURT EXPORTS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 8 Sep 81 p 13

[Article by Sven Eric Ericson: "Auto Industry: Emission Standards Threaten Exports"]

[Text] It is not at all certain that the government wants stricter enforcement of the emission regulations as proposed by the National Environmental Protection Board.

That is what Bo Assarsson, ministry section chief for the environment section of the Department of Agriculture, says regarding the fact that the National Environmental Protection Board wants to make more strict the emission inspection beginning with the 1983 car models.

The National Environmental Protection Board's tightening up means that henceforth more cars will be checked. It will not only be the so-called "prototype" cars that will be subject to exhaust emission control but also the mass produced cars.

The stricter inspection has released a wave of protests from the auto industry, which maintains that the export potential of the Swedish car industry will be worsened, and that the cars will be more expensive on the domestic market.

"If Sweden now introduces more particularized regulations and stricter requirements, our foreign competitors will regard it as if we were introducing trade barriers in their export market.

"Furthermore, they will believe that it is Saab and Volvo that are behind the stricter regulations," says Hans Tornqvist, information chief for Saab's passenger car division in Linkoping.

"And there is a great risk that we may be subject to retaliation measures."

EC Standards

The auto industry wants Sweden instead to implement the standards for exhaust emission control that prevail within the EC-countries. And the corporation leadership within Volvo and Saab receives full support from the employees who agree with the companies' leadership on this issue.

"We cannot behave as if we live on an isolated island. We must follow the standards that apply on the European market, says Arne Gennenberg who is on the board of the plant union local at Volvo in Goteborg."

"We are not able to put Sweden at the forefront of developments, because employment will be threatened as a result. We therefore support the Volvo management in this issue," says Gennenberg.

The same is echoed by Bo Melander, vice-chairman of the union local at the Saab plant in Trollhattan.

Of course we are not against exhaust emission control. But if we in Sweden create unique rules, the risk is great that we will be left behind. And for every new tightening of the emission regulations we lose a few jobs, says Melander.

The Department of Agriculture now states that the auto industry's arguments cannot be overlooked.

Sweden adopted the current emission regulations in the beginning of the seventies, regulations that were stricter than elsewhere in Europe.

"We balanced the economic costs and estimated health effects against the background of the conditions that applied then," explains Asarsson at the Department of Agriculture.

#### New Balancing

But now we must balance anew, and presently we are working very intensely on this issue. We cannot overlook that the economic conditions have changed and that it is tougher for the auto industry today.

When the auto industry called on the Minister of Agriculture, Anders Dahlgren, in the middle of August, he stated clearly that there will be no adjustment of the current emission regulations to conform to the standards that prevail within EC.

Next week the auto industry will again call on the minister of agriculture.

"Whether the administration tears up the intensified control measures that the National Environmental Protection Board has proposed depends on which viewpoints the auto industry offers," states Assarsson.

The National Environmental Protection Board's tightening of the enforcement regulations is no invention of their own, but goes back to a Riksdag resolution from the previous year.

The department has also acted according to the latest survey results conducted by Svensk Bilproving [The Swedish Motor Vehicle Inspection Company] which shows that half of last year's models of Saab and Volvo do not comply with the limit set for discharge of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbon and nitrogen oxide that is required in the car exhaust emission ordinance.

9583

CSO: 5000/2002

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY STAFFER ATTACKS AUTO INDUSTRY ON EMISSIONS

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 7 Sep 81 p 2

[Article by Sten Lundberg: "National Environmental Protection Board Severely Criticizes Auto Industry: Produce Cars That Comply With The Legislation"]

[Text] A new study from the Swedish Motor Vehicle Testing Company shows that not even half of Volvo's and Saab's '81 models meet the emission control standards, writes Sten Lundberg, press ombudsman for the National Environmental Protection Board. We now demand that the auto industry accept responsibility and begin to produce cars that comply with the law that has been in force since 1976, writes Lundberg.

In Sweden we have legislation that prescribes that gasoline-powered passenger cars built in 1976 or later may emit a certain, closely specified, amount of pollution into the air. In other words, the car manufacturers must produce cars that comply with these regulations. But the car manufacturers do not do that. It is not that they are unable to, but that they have chosen to interpret the law so that the regulations will only apply to the car model that is being tested in the beginning of each model year. When the mass production has started, it suffices, according to the interpretation of the auto industry, that the car come close to the allowed limits.

At the meeting at the National Environmental Protection Board some time ago, Saab's representative estimated that about 50 percent of their cars did not meet the standards. Studies that the Swedish Motor Vehicle Testing Company have made through the years also show quite clearly that this is the case.

The most recent study, which was ready this week, shows that not even half of the '81 models of Saab and Volvo meet the standards.

Although it says clearly and unmistakably in the proposition from 1968 that every vehicle must meet the regulations, the auto industry does not manufacture such vehicles, as the industry chose to interpret the law in its own way. How is it possible that this has been allowed to continue since 1976?

The Swedish emission regulations tend to be essentially against the provisions of Parliament Bill 160 of 1968. It was the then Minister of Communications, Svante Lundkvist, who received a mandate from the Riksdag to amend the road traffic ordinance in order to be able to control automobile exhaust emissions.

In the law the government is given full authority to set the limits of emission. The same has also happened with the car-exhaust emission ordinance in which the government has decided that for cars manufactured in 1976 and later, the following should apply: "Cars equipped with...a device to limit pollution in the exhaust fumes. The device shall be regarded as acceptable if the engine during testing...discharges pollution which, calculated per kilometer, contains a maximum of 24.2 grams carbon monoxide, 2.1 grams hydrocarbon and a maximum of 1.9 grams nitric oxide..."

There is also a requirement that the device shall be of a certain durable quality. These regulations apply to cars manufactured in 1976 and later. This is how it is stated in the car exhaust emission ordinance. Not even the auto industry can get away from that.

#### Every Car

As the basis for the bill, Lundkvist had a draft report from the Department's working-committee for car emission problems. The report dealt with the question of whether the impending emission regulations should pertain to the average or the maximum limit for each car. The analysts were of the opinion that the latter alternative was to be preferred, especially from the standpoint of inspection.

The bill reads as follows: "According to the federal regulations in the United States, the limits are the average amount of emissions from all vehicles of the same type. (Within parenthesis it may be mentioned here that the United States abandoned this approach in 1972 and started to employ the maximum limit for each vehicle. My notes). As such a system contains difficulties from the standpoint of inspection, the working group prescribes that the Swedish regulations define the limits for pollution discharge from gasoline-powered cars as the maximum limit which must not be exceeded by any vehicle. With reference to the fact that a certain variation in engine production is unavoidable, the manufacturers must therefore, the working-group points out, aim for an average limit which is lower than the prescribed limit in the production [output].

A little later in the bill is the section by the Minister of Communications himself, in which he emphasizes this argument and says: "A construction of the limit as a maximum limit from the standpoint of inspection has much greater advantages than a construction based on an average limit as the limit."

"I now ask. How can leaders for the auto industry interpret this in such a way to mean that it suffices that the series-produced cars are within the neighborhood of the three above specified limits? This is not just a question of interpretation. It is a question of reading."

#### A Threat

Unfortunately this is not finished. Furthermore, the auto industry has recently gone to different mass media and accused the National Environmental Protection Board of having made the pollution regulation more strict this summer. The National Environmental Protection Board has been painted as a threat to employment within the auto industry, as an agency that goes beyond its authority and makes decision in affairs which actually should be made by the government.



If a lie becomes truth just by being repeated enough times, then unfortunately many good journalists are now on the way of fulfilling that prophecy. This is really how matters stand. One just has to start reading again.

In March 1979 a unanimous agricultural committee--observe, a unanimous committee--wrote the following in reference to a number of motions in the matter: "A question, according to the opinion of the committee, that should be given special attention is the possibility of improving the observance of the requirements on motor vehicles with respect to exhaust emission control, according to the car exhaust emission ordinance."

The committee writes further: "As specified in the following the committee agrees on certain draft proposals of the nature that the National Environmental Protection Board will be the responsible authority in the car exhaust affair." By a decision in this direction, the chances for coordinated and vigorous efforts to deal with the car exhaust problem should increase even on the enforcement level."

Likewise, the Riksdag's decision was unanimous when the committee's report was dealt with there, and the administration then changed the car exhaust ordinance (SFS 1979:673) and commissioned the National Environmental Protection Board to submit "more detailed regulations". Work on that was started immediately, and after going through the usual work procedures, including a circular report to concerned authorities, the Department came to a decision this summer as to the nature of these more detailed regulations.

In general, the application of these rules would be random testing of series produced cars beginning with 1983 models that have been driven between 300 and 1500 miles. In other words, the cars shall be new, but "broken in". The manufacturer can also elect to include cars that have not been sold. If the cars are taken off the "road", the manufacturer gets a chance to service and adjust the cars before testing.

In case more than 40 percent of the cars tested of the same model do not pass the test, the exhaust allowance for the model year can be withdrawn. However, the manufacturer will get the opportunity to correct the flaws in the cars he has sold and the cars he expects to sell of that year's model.

#### Soft Rules

The implementation of these regulations is indeed very lax. I now ask: How can the auto industry leaders maintain that the National Environmental Protection Board has thereby made more strict the exhaust emissions regulations? Furthermore, how is it possible to maintain that the Department has gone beyond its authority by promulgating these regulations?

The Swedish car fleet is today the largest source of air pollution in the country. It is responsible for about 1.5 million tons of pollution each year. There are studies that show that at least 200 (certain American studies say up to 1000) cancer cases every year in densely populated areas are due to air pollution. The car exhaust issue is therefore also a health and environmental issue and not a question of saving 500 kroner for the car consumer who is about to buy a car for perhaps 50,000 kroner. Besides, even the car consumer has lungs and naturally belongs to the group of people who are the most exposed to exhaust fumes.

/The National Environmental Protection Board is now demanding through the new enforcement regulations, that the auto industry face its responsibility and begin to manufacture cars that comply with the legislation that has been in force since 1976! Is that an unreasonable demand?

9583

CSO: 5000/2002

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